

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 DRC-01 /126 W

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R 070957Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 943

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT KS

SUBJECT: KIM TAE-CHUNG STATUS

1. IN MEETING WITH EMBOFF, KWON NO-KAP, FORMER SECRETARY OF KIM TAE-CHUNG WHO VISITS KIM EVERY DAY, GAVE THE FOLLOWING PICTURE OF KIM'S CURRENT SITUATION.

2. THERE IS A STEADY STREAM OF VISITORS TO KIM'S HOUSE, ACCORDING TO KWON. THEY INCLUDE FRIENDS AND FORMER POLITICAL ASSOCIATES AND FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS. OPPOSITION ASSEMBLYMEN WHO HAVE VISITED INCLUDE KO HUNG-MUN, KIM YONG-SAM AND KIM SU-HAN. THERE HAVE BEEN NO VISITS FROM POLITICIANS OF THE GOVERNMENT CAMP. HE WAS TELEPHONED BY CARDINAL KIM SU-HWAN.

3. SINCE HIS RELEASE FROM HOUSE ARREST, KIM HAS LEFT HIS HOUSE ONLY FOUR TIMES. HIS VISITS TO CATHOLIC CEMETARY AND TO HIS ASSOCIATES IN PRISON WERE PUBLICIZED. IN ADDITION, HE WENT OUT TO CALL ON OPPOSITION ASSEMBLYMAN CHONG IL-HYONG. ON
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ANOTHER OCCASION HE DROVE TO INCHON FOR A STROLL

AND LOOK AT THE SEA. KIM DOES NOT GO TO CHURCH,
BUT A PRIEST SAYS MASS AT HIS HOME.

4. KWON SAID KIM TAE-CHUNG KEENLY HOPES TO GO
TO THE US WITH HIS WIFE AND YOUNGEST SON. HE
SAID HE HAS NOT APPLIED FOR A PASSPORT BECAUSE
HE THOUGHT IT BEST TO WAIT UNTIL HE WAS ASSURED
BY AUTHORITIES THAT ONE WOULD BE ISSUED. THUS
FAR THERE HAS BEEN NO RESPONSE TO HIS REQUEST
FOR PERMISSION TO TRAVEL.

5. KWON MENTIONED THAT KIM HAS BEEN VISITED TWICE
BY KCIA SIXTH BUREAU DIRECTOR YI YONG-TAEK. KWON
DID NOT KNOW WHAT THEY DISCUSSED.

6. KWON SAID KIM'S HEALTH IS GOOD AND HE IS IN
GOOD SPIRITS. HE NOTED THAT THERE IS NOTHING
KIM LIKES BETTER THAN TALKING, AND HIS VISITORS
AFFORD AMPLY OPPORTUNITY FOR THAT.
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